

Dear New Yorkers,

Each day, it becomes more clear that climate change poses tremendous risks to the well-being of our environment, our economy and our communities. Simply put, it is the single greatest environmental threat of our time. We have to fight it.



My office's Environmental Protection Bureau plays a central role in protecting New Yorker's health and environment, strictly enforcing our state's and nation's environmental laws. One of our top priorities is leading the fight to reduce the pollution that drives harmful changes in our climate.

You have a role to play, too. Being mindful of how you use energy and other natural resources not only helps to reduce climate change pollution, it can also save you money. Small changes in the way we heat our homes, use electronics or make purchases can save you hundreds of dollars each year, while preventing the emission of thousands of pounds of climate change pollution.

Use the tips in this brochure and join us in fighting climate change. Remember: small steps can make a big difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Letitia James". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Letitia James



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New York State Energy Research
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SAVE ENERGY, SAVE MONEY

*A Win-Win In The Fight
Against Climate Change*



NEW YORK STATE OFFICE

of the

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Environmental Protection Bureau

10 Tips to Save Money & Fight Climate Change

1. Make “Efficient” Buys

Appliances in a typical home account for nearly 8 tons of pollution per year, directly affecting our climate. ENERGY STAR appliances use up to 50% less energy — cutting both your contribution to climate change and your electric bill. Look for the ENERGY STAR label when you are buying a new air conditioner, hot water heater, television, or other appliance.

2. Be Compact

Lighting accounts for up to 12% of a home’s energy use. Replacing standard incandescent light bulbs with LED or CFL bulbs will use up to 75% less energy and will last ten-times longer. Replacing just one incandescent bulb with an LED or CFL can save you up to \$60 and eliminate about 1,000 pounds of climate change pollution annually. Don’t forget to turn off the light when you leave a room. Dimmers and timers can also help save energy.

Note: CFL bulbs contain small amounts of mercury and must be handled and disposed of properly. Proper recycling and disposal of all light bulbs is important.

3. Unplug It

Did you know that 75% of all electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are off? Many TVs, sound systems, computers and electronic chargers draw in power whenever they’re plugged in. Save energy by unplugging electronics when they’re not in use.

4. Be Setting Savvy

Heating and cooling are a home’s top energy users — accounting for almost 50% of its usage.

By switching to an ENERGY STAR air conditioner you could save up to 30%. By moving your thermostat up 2° in the summer and down 2° in the winter, you can save about 1 ton of carbon dioxide annually. A programmable thermostat to control heating and cooling can reduce pollution and save up to \$100 each year.

Together, your water heater and refrigerator consume about 30% of your home’s electricity. Besides buying an ENERGY STAR model, cut your energy use by setting these appliances at the right temperature: 120°F for water heaters, 37-40°F for refrigerators and 0-5°F for freezers.

5. Be Cool (and Warm)

The gaps around windows and doors in a typical home are like having a 3’ by 3’ hole in the wall! Caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows can eliminate 1,700 pounds of pollution per year. Properly installed insulation, especially in the attic, can save 25% on your heating bill and cut another 2,000 pounds of pollution annually.

6. Get Audited

A home “energy audit” can pinpoint the most effective ways to save energy in your home — knocking up to 40% off your energy bill and reducing emissions by 1000 pounds each year. Learn to do your own audit at www.energysavers.gov, or check with the NY State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) at www.nyserda.org or your utility company to have one done for you.

7. “Renew” Your Power

If 10% of New Yorkers chose clean, renewable power — such as solar, wind, low-impact hydroelectric and geothermal — it would reduce emis-

sions of climate change pollution by about 3 billion pounds each year. Find out more at the US Department of Energy’s “Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy” website at www.eere.energy.gov or contact your utility company.

8. The “3 Rs”

Resource extraction, product manufacturing and waste disposal consume energy and create pollution. So, reduce, reuse, and recycle. You can eliminate 1,200 pounds of pollution annually by cutting your trash down by only 10%. For ideas on practicing the “3Rs” at home, visit the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation at www.dec.ny.gov. To find out what and where you can recycle in your area, visit www.earth911.com.

9. Be Incentive Smart

Incentive programs — including tax credits, rebates, low interest loans, even free services — can help pay for home energy efficiency. Check out NYSERDA’s ENERGY SMART residential energy efficiency programs (www.nyserda.org), as well as incentive programs that your utility company may offer.

10. Offset Your Footprint

Want to minimize your impact on climate change? Buying carbon offsets allows you to compensate for your energy use by investing in projects that avoid climate change pollution. See the websites of the Natural Resources Defense Council (www.nrdc.org), Environmental Defense Fund (www.edf.org), and other organizations for information about offsetting your carbon footprint.